



CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WOMAN AND POLITICS
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fact sheet

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WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1986

Women hold 14.8% of all seats in state legislatures in 1986; as a result of the 1985 elections, there are 1,101 female state legislators out of a total of 7,461 legislators. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than tripled.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Women Legislators</u>	<u>% of Total Legislators</u>
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1
1983	991	13.3
1985	1,103	14.8
1986	1,101	14.8

Women hold 9.9% of all state senate seats (197 out of 1,995) and 16.5% of state house or assembly seats (904 out of 5,466).

54.1% of all women legislators are Democrats and 45.1% are Republicans. 55.8% of women in state senates and 53.7% of women in state houses or assemblies are Democrats. 40.1% of the women senators and 46.2% of the assemblywomen and women representatives are Republicans. (In Nebraska state legislators are elected on a non-partisan basis.)

The ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
New Hampshire	33.0	Maine	23.7
Vermont	26.1	Connecticut	21.9
Wyoming	25.6	Arizona	20.0
Colorado	24.0	Oregon	20.0
Washington	23.8	Florida	19.4

The ten states with the lowest percentages of women state legislators are:

<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>% Women</u>
Mississippi	2.3	Kentucky	6.5
Louisiana	3.5	Utah	6.7
Pennsylvania	5.1	Virginia	7.1
South Carolina	5.8	Arkansas	7.4
Alabama	6.4	Tennessee	8.3

Every state has at least three women in its legislature, but three states (Louisiana, Mississippi, and Virginia) have no women in the state senate.

Black women constitute 6.8% (75 out of 1,101) of women in state legislatures; 11 Black women serve in senates and 64 serve in lower houses. Hispanic women constitute 1.2% (13 out of 1,101) of women legislators; 2 Hispanic women serve in senates and 11 serve in lower houses.

Sources of information include: The National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, a project of the Center for the American Woman and Politics; the National Women's Political Caucus; the Democratic National Committee -- Hispanic Affairs Division; the Joint Center for Political Studies.

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STATE	STATE SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	STATE HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	% OF WOMEN OVERALL
	D	R		D	R		
AL	1	1	2/35	7	0	7/105	6.4
AK	1	3	4/20	4	3	7/40	18.3
AZ	1	3	4/30	5	9	14/60	20.0
AR	1	0	1/35	8	1	9/100	7.4
CA	2	2	4/40	7	4	11/80	12.5
CO	2	3	5/35	6	13	19/65	24.0
CT	2	3	5/36	12	24	36/151	21.9
DE	2	1	3/21	3	4	7/41	16.1
FL	7	2	9/40	11	11	22/120	19.4
GA	2	0	2/56	17	4	21/180	9.7
HI	4	2	6/25	4	4	8/51	18.4
ID	5	2	7/42	4	13	17/84	19.1
IL	4	6	10/59	8	12	20/118	16.9
IN	3	3	6/50	7	6	13/100	12.7
IA	1	2	3/50	13	6	19/100	14.7
KS	2	3	5/40	11	14	25/125	18.2
KY	2	0	2/38	5	2	7/100	6.5
LA	0	0	0/39	5	0	5/105	3.5
ME	6	3	9/35	17	18	35/151	23.7
MD	3	0	3/47	29	4	33/141	19.2
MA	4	1	5/40	20	8	28/160	16.5
MI	1	1	2/38	9	5	14/110	10.8
MN	5	4	9/67	12	8	20/134	14.4
MS	0	0	0/52	4	0	4/122	2.3
MO	1	1	2/34	17	7	24/163	13.2
MT	4	1	5/50	13	4	17/100	14.7
NE	nonpartisan		8/49	unicameral			16.3
NV	1	2	3/21	3	4	7/42	15.9
NH	0	7	7/24	44	89	133/400	33.0
NJ	2	1	3/40	2	7	9/80	10.0
NM	0	2	2/42	1	10	11/70	11.6
NY	4	1	5/61	16	2	18/150	10.9
NC	4	0	4/50	9	7	16/120	11.8
ND	3	0	3/53	6	9	15/106	11.9
OH	1	1	2/33	7	3	10/99	9.1
OK	2	1	3/48	6	4	10/101	8.7
OR	4	2	6/30	8	4	12/60	20.0
PA	2	0	2/50	3	8	11/203	5.1
RI	3	5	8/50	11	4	15/100	15.3
SC	2	0	2/46	7	1	8/124	5.8
SD	2	2	4/35	1	10	11/70	14.3
TN	1	0	1/33	4	6	10/99	8.3
TX	0	1	1/31	10	5	15/150	8.8
UT	0	1	1/29	2	4	6/75	6.7
VT	4	0	4/30	23	20	43/150	26.1
VA	0	0	0/40	9	0 1*	10/100	7.1
WA	4	3	7/49	16	12	28/98	23.8
WV	2	1	3/34	16	4	20/100	17.2
WI	1	2	3/33	12	10	22/99	18.9
WY	2	0	2/30	11	11	22/64	25.6
TOTALS	110	79	197/1,995	485	418	904/5,466	14.8
(8 nonpartisan)				*Independent			